

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-02 /013 W

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R 272045Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1074

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS HERMOSILLO 248

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS MX (MCGRAE, DONALD L)

SUBJECT: MISSING AIRCRAFT (1976 CEEESSNA 182, N-9908M)

REF: STATE 213082

1. SENATOR DOMINICI INTERESTED.

2. CONGEN RECEIVED CALL FROM MR. DAVE BECKER, MR. MCGRAW'S PARTNER, ON AUGUST 13, REPORTING MISSING AIRCRAFT CESSNA 182 US REGISTRY N-9908M. HE STATED THAT THE PILOT, LUIS RAMIREZ MATRECITO, HAD FILED FLIGHT PLAN FROM ALBUQUERQUE TO HERMOSILLO TO ARRIVE AUGUST 7 AND RETURN ALBUQUERQUE AUGUST 8, BUT PILOT HAD INFORMED HIM ON AUGUST 9 BY TELEGRAM FROM MAGDALENA THAT BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS HAD PREVENTED HIM FROM RETURNING AS SCHEDULE. THE PILOT LATER INFORMED HIM BY TELEPHONE THAT THE AIRPLANE HAD DISAPPEARED FROM THE AIRPORT AT MAGDALENA. MR. BECKER REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING THE AIRPLANE.

3. CONGEN CONTACTED HERMOSILLO AIRPORT COMMANDER WHO STATED THERE WAS NO RECORD THAT N-9908M HAD EVER ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT. THE AIRPORT COMMANDER ALSO SAID THAT IF THE AIRPLANE IS IN SONORA, IT WOULD BE ILLEGALLY IN THE COUNTRY.

4. CONGEN ATTEMPTED, BUT WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT THE AIRPORT AT MAGDALENA, AS IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY PERMANENT

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AIRPORT PERSONNEL. WE THEN CONTACTED THE CHIEF OF

POLICE OF MAGDALENA ON AUGUST 20, WHO STATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE AIRPLANE, BUT WOULD INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND WOULD BE ABLE TO INFORM US ON MONDAY, AUGUST 23. ON AUGUST 23, WE WERE INFORMED THAT THE AIRPLANE APPARENTLY HAD NOT LANDED IN MAGDALENA, NOR COULD IT BE FOUND. THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE IN MAGDALENA ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE SEARCH.

5. BY COINCIDENCE AN UNMARKED AIRPLANE HAD BEEN LOCATED ABANDONED IN ANOTHER PART OF SONORA AND CONGEN WAS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION. ON AUGUST 24, THE HERMOSILLO AIRPORT COMMANDER INFORMED CONGEN THAT THE UNMARKED AIRPLANE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS ONE HAVING MEXICAN REGISTRY AND ALSO NOT SAME MODEL AS N-9908M.

6. THE AIRPORT COMMANDER STATED THAT HE WILL CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR N-9908M.

7. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED TO MR. BECKER AND TO MR. MCGRAW ON AUGUST 25 BY A TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO THEIR SECRETARY.
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